THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh* the 12th Day of *May*, 1720.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH:

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Holden and begun at *EDINBURGH*, upon *Thursday* the Twelfth Day of *May* 1720, and ending the 23d Day of that same Month and Year.

I.

ACT appointing the KING's *Commission to* JOHN *Earl of* ROTHES, *to be recorded.*

At *Edinburgh*, 12th *May* 1720. Sess. 1.

THE General Assembly of the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this National Church of *Scotland*, being Conveened and Constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable *John* Earl of *Rothes*, His Majesty's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the *Treaty of Union* betwixt the two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*, to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, of the same Tenor with the Commission granted by His Majesty to the foresaid Earl, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and fifteen, and subsequent Assemblies, constituting him His Majesty's high Commissioner, and Representative in this Assembly; Which Commission being publickly read, with all due Honour and Respect, is ordered by this Assembly to be recorded in their Books, to remain therein *ad futuram Rei Memoriam.*

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by His Majesty's Commissioner, 12th May 1720.

GEORGE R.

RIght Reverend and Well-beloved, We Greet you well. The many Proofs you have given Us of your firm Adherence to those Principles, on which the Safety of Our Government, and Happiness of Our Subjects do mutually depend, and that Unanimity and Moderation, which have been the Rule of your Actions in former Assemblies, give Us great Reasons to countenance, as We do with great Willingness, your Meeting together at this Time.

We have at this Time under Our Consideration some Things, which, We hope, may very much contribute to the preventing the Growth of *Popery*. And as We have nothing more at Heart than the promoting of true Religion, and the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, We do not doubt but you will do what in you lies towards the obtaining those great Ends: And you may be assured that We shall always be ready to promote the Interest, and inviolably maintain the Rights and Privileges of the *Presbyterian* Church of *Scotland*.

The many Services and known Abilities of Our Right Trusty, and well-beloved Cousin, *John* Earl of *Rothes*, have been so often manifested on former Occasions, that We have thought fit to renew Our Choice of him to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, not doubting but his constant Zeal for the Protestant Interest, and hearty Concern for the establish'd Church of *Scotland*, will render him highly acceptable to you; and so We bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court at St. *James*'s the 22*d* Day of *April* 1720, in the sixth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

ROXBURGH.

Directed to the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, The Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of SCOTLAND.

III.

The General Aſſembly's ANSWER *to the* KING's *moſt gracious* LETTER.

Edinburgh, 14th May 1720. *Seſſ.* 3.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WE beg Leave to return Your Majeſty our moſt humble and thankful Acknowledgments for the Honour of Your gracious Letter to us, and Your Royal Favour in countenancing our Meeting: And that Your Majeſty is pleaſed to take Notice of our firm Adherence to thoſe Principles upon which the Safety of Your Government, and Happineſs of your Subjects do mutually depend, and of the Unanimity and Moderation of former Aſſemblies, heightens the Satisfaction we have in the Performance of theſe Duties, to which we own our ſelves bound by the ſtrongeſt Obligations.

It hath afforded a moſt ſenſible Pleaſure to the Miniſters and Members of this Church, to hear of Your Majeſty's Chriſtian and Zealous Concern for the Proteſtants Abroad, in Oppoſition to the Invaſions of *Popery*; And Your Majeſty's kind Intimation in Your gracious Letter, that You have ſome Things under Your Royal Conſideration at this Time, which may very much contribute to the preventing of the Growth of *Popery* in this Land, affects us with the deepeſt Senſe of Gratitude; and we hope, though the Means hitherto uſed have not been attended with the deſired Succeſs, that by the Bleſſing of GOD upon Your Majeſty's wiſe Counſels and ſteddy Conduct, this growing Evil will be effectually remedied, to the Joy of all Your Majeſty's good Subjects, who are zealouſly concerned for the flouriſhing of true Religion, and Quiet of Your Majeſty's Government.

It is an unexpreſſible Satisfaction to us, to have ſo great Encouragement to exert our ſelves to the outmoſt, for obtaining thoſe great Ends, the promoting of true Religion, and the ſuppreſſing of Vice and Immorality, that Your Majeſty has recommended them to us, as Things You have moſt at Heart.

We intirely rely upon the Aſſurances given us, That Your Majeſty will be always ready to promote the Intereſt, and inviolably maintain the Rights and Privileges of the *Presbyterian* Church of *Scotland*.

We embrace it as a real Proof of Your Majeſty's kind Regard to this Church, that You have made Choice of the Earl of *Rothes* to repreſent Your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly: His many Services to Your Majeſty, and known Abilities for ſuch an high Truſt, together with his conſtant Zeal for the Proteſtant Intereſt, and hearty Concern for our Church, renders him moſt acceptable to us.

That Your Majeſty may be long preſerved, as a ſignal Bleſſing to Your People, and all the Reformed Intereſt; That the ſame good Succeſs may ſtill attend all Your glorious Endeavours for the Safety and Happineſs of Your Subjects, and the Peace of Chriſtendom, with which hitherto they have been wonderfully bleſt of GOD; That all Divine Bleſſings may be plentifully beſtowed upon Their Royal Highneſſes, the Prince and Princeſs of *Wales*, and Their Royal Iſſue; And that, after a long and happy Life upon Earth, You may be crowned with immortal Glory, are the moſt fervent Prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful moſt obedient, and moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland,

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by

WILL. HAMILTON Moderator.

IV.

ACT concerning Commiſſions to Members of the General Aſſembly, and Atteſtations of the ſame.

Edinburgh, 18th May 1720. *Seſſ.* 6.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering, That there have been diverſe Acts paſt with Reſpect to the Qualifications of the Members of Aſſembly, ſince the Act 8th, Aſſembly *Anno* 1695, which preſcribes a Form of their Commiſſions, particularly the Act 6th, Aſſembly

Assembly *Anno* 1698. Act 6th, Assembly *Anno* 1704; And Act 9th, Assembly *Anno* 1718; and that it is expedient for the Direction of Presbyteries, and for procuring as near as may be, an Uniformity amongst them, in granting Commissions to their Representatives in Assemblies, that an Addition be made to the foresaid Directory in the Act 1695, with Regard to the other posterior Acts abovementioned: Therefore the General Assembly do appoint and ordain, That in all Time coming, there be subjoined and adjected to the foresaid *Formula*, in the Act 1695, the following Clause, *viz.* 'And the said Presbytery 'does hereby testify and declare, That all the Ministers 'abovenamed have signed the *Formula* enjoined by the '10th Act of the General Assembly *Anno* 1711, and all the 'Ruling-Elders abovewritten have signed the *Formula* pre-'scribed by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694.' But if the Presbytery be uncertain, whether the said Elders have signed the said *Formula* or not, then the Attestation shall bear, That they are either to sign it in Presence of the Assembly, or instruct that they have done it before. And further, 'That all the said Commissioners are every other 'Way qualified to be Members of the Assembly, according 'to the Acts of Assembly. Extracted by Clerk 'Presb.' And because the said Act *Anno* 1718, appoints, that all Commissions, after they are written out and extracted, and before they be put in the Hands of the Commissioners, be first read in Presence of the Presbytery, and be revised by them, and that it be attested by the Moderator and Clerk of the Presbytery upon the said Commissions that this was so done: Therefore the Assembly appoints, That the Presbytery's Attestation shall run thus, 'At the Day of 'The Presbytery having had the abovewritten Extract of 'their Commission to their Representatives in the ensuing 'Assembly laid before them, they caused it to be read, and 'having revised and considered the same, they did approve 'thereof: Attested by Moderator or 'Clerk.' And because the foresaid Act 9th, Assembly 1728, does appoint and ordain, That no Commissioners from Royal Burghs to their Representatives in this Assembly shall be sustained, but such as shall be consented to, and approven, not only by the Ministry and Kirk-sessions of the Burghs, but also by the Presbytery of the Bounds within which the Burghs ly; and upon which it shall be attested both by the Kirk-session and Presbytery foresaid, according to the Tenor of the foresaid Act; Therefore the General Assembly appoints, That the foresaid Attestations of the Kirk-session and Presbytery shall be in the Terms following, 'At the Day of 'The which Day the Kirk-session of 'having had laid before them a Commis-

'sion given by the Magistrates and Town-Council of
' to to represent the said Burgh
' in the ensuing General Assembly of this National Church,
' do, in the Terms of the Act 9th Assembly 1718, testify
' and declare, That the said is an Elder lawfully or-
' dained, and that he has signed the *Formula* prescribed by
' the 11th Act of Assembly 1694; and likewise that he is
' (a Residenter in the said Burgh) or (an Heritor in the
' said Burgh) or (an Heritor in the Bounds of the Pres-
' bytery of within which the said Burgh lies)
' or has (formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the
' said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which
' the said Burgh does ly)' And that the Presbytery's Atte-
station shall run thus, *viz.* 'At the Day of
' The which Day the Presbytery
' of having had produced before them a Commis-
' on given by the Magistrates and Town-council of
' to to represent the said Burgh in the ensuing
' General Assembly of this National Church, with an At-
' testation of the Kirk-session of the said Burgh, conform to
' the Direction of the Act 9th Assembly 1718, and Act 4th
' Assembly 1720, do in the Terms of the foresaid Acts like-
' wise testify and declare, That, *&c.*' and so forth, precise-
ly in the Words of the Form above-prescribed to the Kirk-
sessions. And the General Assembly does resolve and de-
clare, That all Commissions not in the Terms abovemen-
tioned shall be rejected. And it is hereby provided and
declared, That if the Person elected by the Burgh Royal
be qualified as above, That the Ministry and Session, and
Presbytery respectively, do attest him when his Com-
mission is presented to them.

V.

ACT concerning a Book intituled, The Marrow of Modern Divinity.

Edinburgh, May 20. 1720. *Sess.* 9.

THE General Assembly having had under their Consideration the Book intituled, *The Marrow of Modern Divinity*, reprinted at *Edinburgh Anno* 1718, with an ample Recommendation prefixed thereto, which they found was dispersed, and came into the Hands of many of the People; and having had laid before them the following Passages, collected out of the said Book by a Committee for preserving the Purity of Doctrine in this Church, appointed by the Commission of the late General Assembly; The Tenor whereof follows.

Con-

Concerning the Nature of Faith.

'*Page* 118. There is no more for him to do, but only 'to know and believe that Christ hath done all for 'him. *Page* 119. This then is perfect Righteous- 'ness,——only to know and believe, That Jesus 'Christ is now gone to the Father, and sitteth at his 'Right-Hand, not as a Judge, but as made unto you 'of GOD, Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Re- 'demption; wherefore as *Paul* and *Silas* said to the '*Jailor*, so say I unto you, *Believe on the Lord Jesus* '*Christ, and thou shalt be saved*, that is, Be verily persuad- 'ed in your Hearts, that Jesus Christ is yours, and that 'you shall have Life and Salvation by him; that whatso- 'ever Christ did for the Redemption of Mankind, he did 'it for you. *Page* 120. Forasmuch as the Holy Scripture 'speaketh to all in General, none of us ought to dis- 'trust himself, but believe that it doth belong particu- 'larly to himself.' The same is asserted, *Pages* 121, 122, 123, 124, 131, 136, 137, 175, 176, 177, and in many other Places of the Book. This Notion of *saving Faith* appears contrary to Scriptute, *Isa.* 50. 10. *Rom.* 8. 16. 1 *John* 5. 13. and to *Confess. Cap.* 18. § 1, 3, 4. and to *Larger Catechism*, *Quest.* 81, 172. all which Passages show, That Assurance is not of the Essence of Faith; whereas the Passages cited from the *Marrow*, *&c.* appear to assert the contrary, making that *Saving Faith* commanded in the Gospel, a Man's Perswasion that Christ is his, and died for him; and that whoever hath not this Perswasion or Assurance, hath not answered the Gospel-Call, nor is a true Believer.

Of Universal Atonement and Pardon.

'*Page* 108. Christ hath taken upon him the Sins of all 'Men. *Page* 119. The Father hath made a Deed 'of Gift, and Grant unto all Mankind, That whosoever of 'them all shall believe in his Son shall not perish, *&c.* i. e. (whosoever believes or is perswaded that Christ is his, for this must be the Sense according to the former Passages.) 'Hence it was that Christ said to his Disciples, *Go and preach* '*the Gospel to every Creature under Heaven*, that is, Go 'and tell every Man without Exception, That here is good 'News for him, *Christ is dead for him.*——Even so our good 'King the Lord of Heaven and Earth hath, for the Obedi- 'ence and Desert of our good Brother Jesus Christ, pardoned 'all our Sins.' To the same Purpose, *Pages* 127, and 128. Here is asserted an universal Redemption as to Purchase,

contrary to *John* 10. 15, 27, 28, 29. and 15. 13, and 17. *Titus* 2. 14. *Confeſſ. Cap.* 3. § 6. *Cap.* 8. § 8. *Larger Catechiſm, Queſt.* 59.

Holineſs not neceſſary to Salvation.

'FRom *Page* 150, to *Page* 153. And if the Law ſay good 'Works muſt be done, and the Commandment muſt 'be kept, if thou wilt obtain Salvation; then anſwer you, 'and ſay, *I am already ſaved before thou cameſt; therefore 'I have no need of thy Preſence,——Chriſt is my Righteouſ-'neſs, my Treaſure and my Work. I confeſs, O Law! that I 'am neither Godly nor Righteous; but this yet am I ſure of, 'that he is Godly and Righteous for me.* *Page* 185. Good 'Works may rather be called a Believer's walking in the 'Way of eternal Happineſs than the Way it ſelf. This Doctrine tends to ſlacken Peoples Diligence in the Study of Holineſs, contrary to *Heb.* 12. 14. 2 *Theſ.* 2. 13. *Epheſ.* 2. 10. *Iſa.* 35. 8. *James* 2. 20. *Confeſſ. Cap.* 13. § 1. *Larger Catechiſm, Queſt.* 32. *Confeſſ. Cap.* 15. § 2.

Fear of Puniſhment, and Hope of Reward, not allowed to be Motives of a Believer's Obedience.

'PAge 181. Would you not have Believers to eſchew 'Evil, and do Good for Fear of Hell, or Hope of Hea-'ven? *Anſwer*, No indeed,—for ſo far forth as they do 'ſo, their Obedience is but ſlaviſh.' A great deal more to this Purpoſe is to be ſeen, *Pages* 175, 179, 180, 182, 183, 184, and appears contrary to *Pſalms* 45. 11. *Pſal.* 119. 4, 6. *Exod.* 20. 2. *James* 1. 25. and 2. 8, 10, 11, 12. 1 *Tim.* 4. 8. *Col.* 3. 24. *Heb.* 11. 6, 26. *Rev.* 2. 10. 2 *Cor.* 5. 9, 10, 11. *Heb.* 12. 2, 28, 29. 2 *Pet.* 3. 24. *Confeſſ. cap.* 16. § 2, *and* 6.

That the Believer is not under the Law, as a Rule of Life.

'PAge 150. As the Law is the Covenant of Works, you 'are wholly and altogether ſet free from it. And 'Page 151. You are now ſet free both from the command-'ing and condemning Power of the Covenant of Works. 'Page 216. You will yield Obedience to the Law of Chriſt, 'not only without Reſpect, either to what the Law of 'Works either promiſeth or threatneth, but alſo with-'out having Reſpect to what the Law of Chriſt either pro-

'miſeth

‘ miseth or threatneth,——and this is to serve the Lord ‘ without Fear of any Penalty, which either the Law of ‘ Works, or the Law of Christ threatneth, *Luke* 1. 74. ‘ See also *Pages* 5, 153, 180, 156, 157, 163, 199, 209, ‘ 210. contrary to Scripture, *Exod.* 20. 2. *Matth.* 5. 17, *&c. Rom.* 3. 21. and 13. 9. *James* 1. 25. and 2. 8, 10, 11, 12. and *Confes. cap.* 19. § 5, 6.

The Six following Antinomian Paradoxes are sensed and defended, by applying to them that Distinction of the Law of Works, and the Law of Christ,

‘ PAge 198, and 199. 1*mo*, A Believer is not under the ‘ Law, but is altogether delivered from it. 2*do*, A ‘ Believer doth not commit Sin. 3*tio*, The Lord can see ‘ no Sin in a Believer. 4*to*, The Lord is not angry with ‘ a Believer for his Sins. 5*to*, The Lord doth not chastise ‘ a Believer for his Sins. 6*to*, A Believer hath no Cause, ‘ neither to confess his Sins, nor to crave Pardon at the Hand ‘ of GOD for them, neither to fast nor mourn, nor humble ‘ himself before the Lord for them.

Expressions in the Marrow, &c.

‘ PAge 192. A Minister that dares not perswade Sinners ‘ to believe their Sins are pardoned, before he see ‘ their Lives reformed, for Fear they should take more ‘ Liberty to sin, is ignorant of the Mystery of Faith. And ‘ *P.* 27. Christ undertook to suffer under the Penalty that lay ‘ upon Man to have undergone. And *P.* 117. The Co- ‘ venant of Works was twice made; first with Man, ‘ and a second Time GOD was on both Sides. *P.* 115. ‘ The Law practised his whole Tyranny upon the Son of ‘ GOD, and because it did so horribly and cursedly sin ‘ against his GOD, it is cursed and arraigned, and as a ‘ Thief, and cursed Murderer of the Son of GOD, loseth all ‘ his Right, and deserveth to be condemned; the Law ‘ therefore is bound, dead, and crucified to me. *P.* 126. ‘ Whosoever is married to Christ, and so in him by Faith, ‘ he is as acceptable to GOD the Father as Christ himself. ‘ 127. And so shall the Love and Favour of GOD be as ‘ deeply insinuated into you, as it is into Christ himself. ‘ *P.* 144. Whence it must needs follow, That you can- ‘ not be damned, except Christ be damned with you; ‘ neither can Christ be saved, except ye be saved with him. ‘ *P.* 145, 146. Say unto Christ with bold Confidence, ‘ I give to thee, my dear Husband, my Unbelief, my Mis-

'truſt, my Pride, my Arrogancy, my Ambition, my Wrath 'and Anger, my Envy, my Covetouſneſs, my evil 'Thoughts, Affections, and Deſires; I make one Bundle 'of thoſe, and all my other Offences, and give them un- 'to thee. 2 *Cor.* 5. 21. *And thus was Chriſt made Sin for 'us, who knew no Sin, that we might be made the Righteouſ- 'neſs of God in him.* 'Page 207. Nor yet as touching your 'Juſtification and eternal Salvation, will he love you ever 'a Whit the leſs, tho' you commit never ſo many or great 'Sins.

Theſe are collected out of many other exceptionable Poſitions contained in that Book, which for Brevity's Sake are omitted.

And the General Aſſembly having had the ſaid Paſſages, and ſeveral others read to them from the ſaid Book, and having compared them with the Texts of holy Scripture, Articles of our Confeſſion of Faith, and of the Larger Catechiſm of this Church above-cited; The General Aſſembly found, That the ſaid Paſſages, and Quotations, which relate to the five ſeveral Heads of Doctrine abovementioned, are contrary to the holy Scriptures, our Confeſſion of Faith and Catechiſms; and that the Diſtinction of the Law, as it is the Law of Works, and as it is the Law of Chriſt, as the Author applies it, in Order to ſenſe, and defend the ſix Antinomian Paradoxes above-written, is altogether groundleſs; and that the other Expreſſions above ſet down, excerpted out of the ſaid Book, are exceeding Harſh and Offenſive. And therefore the General Aſſembly do hereby ſtrictly ptohibite and diſcharge all the Miniſters of this Church, either by Preaching, Writing or Printing, to recommend the ſaid Book, or in Diſcourſe to ſay any Thing in Favours of it; But on the contrary, they are hereby enjoned and required to Warn and Exhort their People, in whoſe Hands the ſaid Book is, or may come, not to read or uſe the ſame.

VI.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for diſcuſſing diverſe Affairs referred to them.

At Edinburgh, May 21. 1720. *Seſſ.* 10.

THE General Aſſembly taking to their Conſideration, That there are diverſe weighty Affairs, which they cannot overtake, do nominate, commiſſionate and appoint their Reverend Brethren, Mrs. *William Hamilton* Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh*,

burgh their Moderator, *William Wisheart* Principal of the said College, *James Heart* at *Edinburgh*, *William Mitchel* there, *James Grierson* there, *James Smith* at *Cramond*, *George Fordice* at *Corstorphine*, *John Bonar* at *Torphichan*, *James Houston* at *Kirkliston*, *Andrew Bennet* at *Morwingside*, *John Wilkie* at *Strabrock*, *Robert Livingston* at *Biggar*, *John Bowie* at *Dolphingtoun*, *James Robertson* at *Atholston*, *John Wallace* at *Drummelzior*, *John Hay* at *Peebles*, *Patrick Cuming* at *Ormistoun*, *David Walker* at *Temple*, *William Robertson* at *Borthwick*, *Matthew Reid* at *North-Berwick*, *James Alston* at *Dirletoun*, *William Hamilton* at *Boltoun*, *George Turnbul* at *Tyninghame*, *James Craig* at *Dumbar*, *John Lauder* at *Eccles*, *Daniel Sinclair* at *Longformacus*, *Alexander Trotter* at *Eddrom*, *Henry Vetch* at *Swintoun*, *John Vetch* at *Whitsome*, *James Ramsay* at *Kelso*, *Walter Douglas* at *Lintoun*, *Robert Cuningham* at *Hawick*, *John Inglis* at *Southden*, *William Crawford* at *Wiltoun*, *Walter Scot* at *Westeruther*, *James Innes* at *Mertoun*, *George Buyres* at *Lessouden*, *Adam Miln* at *Melross*, *Robert Malcolm* at *Ewes*, *William Armstrong* at *Cannabee*, *Robert Kirkland* at *Daltoun*, *William Carlyle* at *Cummertrees*, *Andrew Clark* at *Tinnergirth*, *James Guthrie* at *Irongray*, *Alexander Robertson* at *Tinwald*, *John M'murdo* at *Thorthorwald*, *Mungo Gibson* at *Sanquhar*, *Simon Riddell* at *Tinrom*, *Alexander Telfer* at *Rerwick*, *George Gartshore* at *Anwith*, *Alexander Maitland* at *Tungland*, *John M'Aul* at *Whithorn*, *John Miller* at *Peningham*, *Robert Fergusson* at *Calmunel*, *William Wilson* at *Inch*, *Andrew Rogers* at *Galstoun*, *William Maitland* at *Mauchlane*, *John Hunter* at *Air*, *John M'Dermite* there, *John Orr* at *Muirkirk*, *Andrew Cuming* at *Largs*, *George Pedden* at *Kilmarnock*, *John Montgomery* at *Stewartoun*, *Robert Miller* at *Paisley*, *Robert Wodrow* at *East Wood*, *Matthew Crawford* at *Inchinan*, *Alexander Findlator* at *Hamiltoun*, *Matthew Connel* at *Blantyre*, *John Scot* at *Strevan*, *William Hamiltoun* at *Bothwel*, *Thomas Linnen* at *Lesmahego*, *Robert Gray* at *Wistoun*, *John Orr* at *Lanerk*, *James Clark* at *Glasgow*, *John Gray* there, *John Hamilton* there, *John Stirling* Principal of the College of *Glasgow*, *John Ritchie* at *Old Kilpatrick*, *George Park* at *Killern*, *James Bain* at *Bonhill*, *Walter Campbell* at *Dunoon*, *William Campbell* at *Glenderule*, *William Campbell* at *Southend*, *Charles Stewart* at *Campbeltoun*, *Alexander Campbell* at *Inverary*, *Duncan Campbell* at *Kilmuchen*, *William Morison* at *Terie*, *Daniel Morison* at *Kilchrenan*, *Kenneth Bethune* at *Strath*, *Archibald M'Queen* at *Snizort*, *Adam Fergusson* at *Logyrait*, *Alexander Stodhart* at *Dunkeld*, *William Chalmers* at

Thomas Black at *Perth*, *William Moncrief* at *Methven*, *James Macer* at *Aberdalgie*, *Andrew Ure* at *Tillibole*, *William Hally* at *Muthel*, *Archibald Bowie* at *Monee*, *Archibald Campbell* at *Lerbert*, *William Campbell* at *Alva*,

Matthew Wallace at *Kincairdine*, *Michael Potter* at *Kippen*, *Samuel Charters* at *Inverkeithing*, *Allan Logan* at *Culroſs*, *John Hepburn* at *Torry*, *John Cleghorn* at *Weems*, *John Dryſdale* at *Kirkcaldy*, *Thomas Melvil* at *Scoonie*, *William Thomſon* at *Fliſk*, *John Greg* at *Coupar*, *William Greenlees* at *Cires*, *John Anderſon* Junior at *William Hardy* at St. *Andrews*, *James Robertſon* at *Leuchars*, *James Haddow* Principal of the new College of St. *Andrews*, *James Nairn* at *Anſtruther*, *Joſeph Drew* Principal of the *Leonardine* College of St. *Andrews*, *James Gray* at *Ketins*, *George Clephan* at *Newtile*, *David Thomſon* at *Meigle*, *Hugh Maxwel* at *Forfar*, *William Oliphant* at *Tannadice*, *Patrick Johnſtoun* at *Auchterhouſe*, *James Hodge* at *Longforgan*, *George Fleeming* at *Lundie*, *John Ferguſſon* at *Aberbrothwick*, *James Robertſon* at *Kinnel*, *George Wemyſs* at *Fern*, *James Trail* at *Montroſe*, *David Ferguſſon* at *Farnel*, *James Douglas* at *Arbuthnet*, *James Mitchel* at *Dunnotter*, *Andrew Honneyman* at *Kinneff*, *Martin Shank* at *Banchoryternan*, *Alexander Deans* at *Birſs*, *William Mair* at *Kincardine O-Neil*, *Thomas Blackwell* Principal of the College of *New Aberdeen*, *David Anderſon* Profeſſor of Divinity at *Aberdeen*, *John Osburn* at *Aberdeen*, *Alexander Shanks* at *Drummoach*, *Alexander Mitchel* at Old *Machir*, *George Chalmers* Principal of the King's College at *Aberdeen*, *Daniel M'Swain* at *Strathdown*, *James Gordon* at *Alford*, *Thomas Reid* at *Lochell*, *Gilbert Gerard* at *Chappel* of *Garioch*, *Francis Downie* at *Kemnay*, *James Shand* at *Inch*, *Alexander Gordon* at *Foverain*, *Henry Lukly* at *Meldrum*, *Alexander Auchinleck* at *Fraſersburgh*, *William Leſly* at *St. Fergus*, *John Forbes* at *Olddeer*, *John Gordon* at *Gamery*, *Alexander Forbes* at *Forgue*, *Peter Darling* at *Boyndie*, *James Innes* at *Bamff*, *John Gilchriſt* at *Keith*, *James Murray* at *Grange*, *James Chapman* at *Cromdale*, *Alexander Fraſer* at *Alvie*, *James Thomſon* at *Elgin*, *William Dougald* at *Birny*, *James Crocket* at *Dallas*, *David Henderſon* at *Oldearn*, *William Stewart* at *Inverneſs*, *Robert Baillie* there, *George Gordon* at *Cromerty*, *Robert Finlay* at *Roſemarkny*, *Daniel M'Gilligen* at *Alneſs*, *Hugh Campbell* at *Kiltern*, *Hugh Monro* at *Tain*, *Robert Monro* at *Kincardine*, *Walter Roſs* at *Creich*, *John M'Kaey* at *Larg*, *William M'kbeath* at *Olrig*, *Hugh Corſs* at *Bowar*, *Thomas Baikie* at *Kirkwall*, *William Blaw* at *Weſtray*, *James Grierſon* at *Tingwal*, *John Chalmers* at *Campvere*, Miniſters. *John* Duke of *Athol*, *John* Earl of *Rothes*, *David* Earl of *Buchan*, *Charles* Earl of *Lauderdale*, *Thomas* Earl of *Haddingtoun*, *Patrick* Earl of *Marchmount*, *James* Earl of *Hyndford*, *David* Earl of *Glaſgow*, *Archibald* Earl of *Iſlay*, *William* Lord *Strathnaver*, *Alexander* Lord *Polwarth*, Lord *Charles Ker* Director of His Majeſty's Chancellary, *William* Lord *Roſs*, *James* Lord *Torphichen*, *George* Lord *Reay*, Sir *Hugh*

Hugh Dalrymple of *North Berwick* Baronet Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, Mr. *Robert Dundas* Younger of *Arniſtoun* His Majeſty's Advocate, *Adam Cokeburn* of *Ormiſtoun* Lord Juſtice Clerk, Sir *John Maxwel* of *Pollock* Baronet, Sir *Alexander Ogilvy* of *Forglen* Baronet, Mr. *James Erskine* of *Grange*, Sir *Francis Grant* of *Cullen* Baronet, Mr. *James Hamilton* of *Pancaitland*, Sir *Andrew Home* of *Kimmerghame*, Sir *Walter Pringle* of *Newhall*, nine of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, *John Clark* one of the Barons of Exchequer, Mr. *John Campbell* of *Mamore*, Colonel *William Dalrymple* of *Glenmore*, Sir *David Dalrymple* of *Hailles* Baronet, Mr. *Arthur Forbes* of *Breda*, Colonel *John Erskine* of *Carnock*, Mr. *Walter Stewart* of Wetter *Polmeas* Advocate His Majeſty's Sollicitor, Sir *Alexander Gilmore* of *Craigmiller*, Doctor *Alexander Dundas* His Majeſty's Phyſician, *John Campbell* Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, *William Livingſton* late Conveener there, Mr. *Robert Stewart* Regent in the College of *Edinburgh*, *George Dundas* of that Ilk, Mr. *John Dundas* of *Philpſtoun* Advocate Procurator for the Church of *Scotland*, Doctor *David Mitchel* of *Herdmanſtoun*, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* Baronet, Mr. *Alexander Menzies* of *Coulterallars*, Sir *John Clark* of *Pennycook* Baronet, Mr. *John Hamilton* of *Pancaitland* younger, Sir *Robert Dalrymple* of *Caſtletoun*, Sir *William Baird* of *Newbayth* Baronet, *Patrick Hepburn* of *Smeitoun*, Sir *Robert Sinclair* of *Longformacus* Baronet, Sir *John Swinton* of that Ilk, *Andrew Riddell* Uncle to the Laird of *Riddell*, Sir *Gilbert Eliot* of *Minto* Baronet, Mr. *Thomas Haliburton* of *Newmains*, *Robert Paterſon* of *Drygrange*, *John Currie* Provoſt of *Drumfries*, Mr. *James Baillie* Writer to the Signet, Sir *William Johnſton* of *Weſtraw* Baronet, *George Baillie* of *Jerviſwood*, *Archibald Douglas* of *Cavers*, *Robert M'Gechan* of *Dalquhat*, Colonel *William Maxwel* of *Cardonneſs*, *John Martin* of *Aries*, Sir *James Agnew* of *Lochnaw* Baronet, Sir *Charles Hay* of *Park* Baronet, Sir *Adam Whiteford* of *Blairhan* Baronet, Mr. *James Boſuell* of *Auchinleck* Advocate, Sir *Hugh Cathcart* of *Carletoun* Baronet, *Francis Dunlop* of that Ilk, Sir *David Stewart* of *Cultneſs* Baronet, *Hugh Montgomery* of *Hartfield*, *John Bowman* Provoſt of *Glaſgow*, *Alexander Cochran* of *Craigmure*, *John Somervell* Baillie in *Renfrew*, Sir *James Smollet* of *Bonhill*, *John M'Lauchlan* of *Auchintroig*, Sir *James Campbell* of *Ardkinglaſs* Baronet, *Colin Campbell* of *Skipnidge*, *Peter Campbell* of *Inverinon*, Mr. *Alexander Campbell* Advocate, *William M'Leod* of *Hammer*, *Robert Robertſon* Provoſt of *Perth*, *Colin Brown* Dean of Guild there, Sir *James Campbell* of *Aberuchle*, *James Chriſty* late Provoſt of *Stirling*, Colonel *John Blaccader* Deputy Governour of *Stirling* Caſtle, Sir *James Livingſton* of *Glentirren* Baronet, Colonel *John Erskine* Uncle to *Alva*, *George Balfour* of

Balberny, Mr. *Robert Hay* of *Naughtoun*, *John Knox* Chirurgion, Sir *Robert Anſtruther* of *Balcaskie*, Mr. *Patrick Halden* Advocate, *Patrick Drummond* of *Gairdrum*, *John Scrimzeour* younger of *Tealing*, *John Allardice* Provoſt of *Aberbrothwick*, Colonel *John Ried* Provoſt of *Montroſe*, Mr. *Arthur Shepherd* Sheriff Depute of *Kincairdine*, *Arthur Forbes* Elder of *Echt*, *George Fordice* Provoſt of *Aberdeen*, *John Gordon* late Provoſt there, *Robert Stewart* alſo late Provoſt there, Captain *John Forbes* of *Boyndly*, Mr. *Alexander Gairdin* of *Troup* Advocate, *Robert Stewart* Provoſt of *Bamff*, Mr. *Patrick Grant* of *Eaſter Elchies* Advocate, Sir *Henry Innes* of that Ilk, *James Brody* of that Ilk, *James Spence* of *Alveskirton*, Mr. *Duncan Forbes* Advocate, Mr. *Alexander Gordon* of *Ardoch*, *Robert Monro* of *Foulis*, *George Monro* of *Newmore*, Sir *George Warrander* of *Lochend* Baronet, *Thomas Dundas* late Baillie in *Edinburgh*, *Archbald M'Aulay* late Baillie there, *Robert Grierſon* Merchant there, Mr. *Colin Drummond* Regent in the College there, Mr. *Robert Hepburn* Writer to the Signet, Major *James Leblanc* and Doctor *John Riddel* Phyſician, Ruling Elders, to be Commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the Effect aftermentioned, with Power to the ſaid Commiſſion or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any thirty one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty one are always to be Miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſembly Houſe at *Edinburgh*, the firſt free Day after the Diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the Clock Forenoon, and afterwards the ſecond *Wedneſdays* of *Auguſt*, *November*, and *March* next to come, and oftner when or where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with Power to the ſaid Commiſſion, to chooſe their own Moderator. And ſicklike, The General Aſſembly fully impowers and authorizes their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their *Quorum* abovementioned, to cognoſce and finally determine as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, in every Matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Aſſembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly: And to advert unto the Intereſts of the Church on every Occaſion, That the Church and preſent Eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable, providing this general Clauſe be not extended to particular Affairs or Proceſſes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of univerſal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church; And it is hereby appointed, that what ſhall be determined at one Diet of the ſaid Commiſſion, with Relation to private Cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in Force, till diſapproven by the General

General Assembly. And the General Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly, One thousand seven hundred and Seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners abovenamed, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially therein insert, and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets tending toward the promoting a Scheme of Opinions, inconsistent with our Confession of Faith; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errours therein contained, whether by Word or Print, be called before them to answer for such Recommendations. And the Commission are impowered to judge in Cases of Doctrine that shall be brought before them by Appeals or References from Synods or Presbyteries; and they are likewise appointed to take Care that Impressions of the holy Scriptures, of the Confession of Faith, and Catechisms, and of all other Books relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government of this Church, be correct. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to medle in any other Matters, than what are committed and referred to them as abovementioned; and in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitutions of this National Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same: Declaring, That in and for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause: And this Commission is to continue and endure until an other Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents there from, ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly 1766. And for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and other Presbyteries within twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meeting of this Commission, and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give punctual Attendance on the Diets thereof, and Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission are to take Care, that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same.

VII.

Act and Reference againſt Popery.

At Edinburgh May 23. 1720. *ante Merid. Seſſ.* 10.

THE which Day there being brought in from the Committee for Overtures, a Report concerning the extraordinary Increaſe of Popery in diverſe Places of this Nation, together with a large and particular Memorial of the Inſtances thereof; and an Overture concerning the ſame; And the General Aſſembly having conſidered the ſaid Overture and Memorial, they, in Purſuance thereof, did and hereby do inſtruct and impower their Commiſſion, to do what in them lies, to prevent the Growth of Popery, by directing and aſſiſting Miniſters in theſe Bounds where Popery prevails, in applying all proper Eccleſiaſtick Remedies: Particularly theſe preſcrib'd in the fourth Act of the General Aſſembly, *Anno* 1719, and former Acts. And the General Aſſembly does appoint all the Miniſters of this Church; eſpecially in ſuch Corners as there are Papiſts in, to preach againſt the Errours of Popery, and deal ſeriouſly with Papiſts for their Conviction. And, *Further*, The General Aſſembly does inſtruct their ſaid Commiſſion, to uſe all ſuitable Endeavours to get the civil Remedies, that are now under Conſideration, brought to ſome good Iſſue; and likewiſe to think upon Means to get proper Books againſt Popery, put in the Hands of the People in theſe Places, where Popery prevails, or People are in Danger of being perverted. And the General Aſſembly did approve of the Draught of the ſaid Memorial againſt Popery brought in, and appoints the Moderator in their Name to ſign the ſame, and orders that it be ſent to the Secretary of State, to be laid before His Majeſty.

VIII.

Act for preaching Catechetical Doctrine, with Directions therein.

Edinburgh 23d May 1720. *Seſſ.* 10.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering how much it may conduce unto the Eſtabliſhment of People in the Chriſtian Faith, and to the promoting of Piety in Practice, that they be well inſtructed in the Principles of our holy Religion; do therefore recommend to the ſevreal

several Ministers of this Church, punctually to observe the Acts of former General Assemblies, for preaching Catechetical Doctrine; and that in these their Catechetical Sermons, they more especially insist upon the great and fundamental Truths, according to our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, such as that of the Being and Providence of GOD, and the Divine Authority of the Holy Scriptures, the necessary Doctrine of the ever blessed Trinity, in the Unity of the Godhead: Particularly of the Eternal Deity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and of the Satisfaction to Divine Justice made by him, who is our only Propitiation, of Regeneration by efficacious Grace, of free Justification through our blessed Surety the Lord Jesus Christ received by Faith alone, and of the Necessity of an holy Life, in Order to the obtaining of everlasting Happiness, and that they be earnest and instant in their Prayers to GOD, that, through his Blessing upon their Labours, their Flocks may be preserved from the Infections of dangerous Errours, and engaged to maintain a Conversation, that becomes the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is God over all, blessed for ever.

IX.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh 23d *May* 1720. *Sess.* 10. and *Ult.*

THE next General Assembly of this National Church of *Scotland*, is appointed to be held at *Edinburgh*, the second *Thursday* of *May* next to come, in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand seven Hundred and Twenty One, being the 11th Day of that Month.

This General Assembly was concluded with Prayer, singing the 133 *Psalm throughout, and pronouncing of the Blessing.*

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JO. DUNDAS, *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

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After Sermon, by Mr. *James Grierson* Moderator of the preceeding Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did conveen; and Mr. *William Hamilton* Professor of *Theology* in the College of *Edinburgh*, was chosen Moderator, *May* 12th, 1720. *Sess.* 1.

The King's Commission to *John* Earl of *Rothes* recorded. *Ibid.*

His Grace his Majesty's Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly at opening thereof. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Return to his Majesty's Commissioner's Speech. *Ibid.*

Committee for drawing an Answer to his Majesty's Gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures appointed. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References and Appeals. *Ibid.*

The Act 7th, Assembly 1718, for the better dispatching the Business of Assemblies, read; and the punctual Observation thereof enjoined, under the Certifications therein expreſt. *Ibid.*

Committee appointed to examine the Form of the Commissions given to the Members of this Assembly by their Constituents, to censure Absents, name Ministers to preach before the Commissioner's Grace, to receive in Lists of Probationers and Students of Divinity, in Order to their being recorded, and to lay their Report as to Commissions, first before the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

The Registers of the Commission of the late Assembly, and of the several Synods, ordered to be brought in to the next Diet for ordinary Business, that Committees may be appointed to revise them. *Ibid.*

A Diet appointed for Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer, *May* 13, *Sess.* 2*d.*

Ministers named to preach before the Lord Commissioner. *Ibid.*

Some more Commissions produced, and Members added to Committees. *Ibid.*

Brethren ordered to give in Lists of Probationers and Students of Divinity in their Bounds to Mr. *James Paton*, appointed by the Committee above-named to receive the same. *Ibid.*

The Act for Dispatch of Business again intimated. *Ibid.*

More Commiſſions produced, and Members added to Committees, *May* 14*th*, *Seſſ.* 3*d*.

An Anſwer to His Majeſty's gracious Letter unanimouſly approven; and being ſigned by the Moderator, the Lord Commiſſioner undertook to tranſmit it to His Majeſty, and a Copy thereof was ordered to be ſent to his Grace the Duke of *Roxburgh* Secretary of State. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to reviſe the Regiſter of the Commiſſion of the laſt Aſſembly, to audite the Procurator and Agent for the Church their Accounts, to conſider the State of the Church's publick Money, prepare Overtures about it, and bring in any Overtures and References made by the late Commiſſion to this Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Committees appointed to examine the Actings of the Synods of *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, *Merſe* and *Tiviotdale*, *Drumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Fife*, *Aberdeen* and *Roſs*, and *Sutherland*; but the Synod-books of *Perth* and *Stirling*, *Angus* and *Merns*, *Murray*, *Argyle* and *Orkney* and *Caithneſs*, and Presbytery-book of *Zetland* were not produced; but Excuſes offered for the Synods of *Perth* and *Stirling*, and *Angus* and *Merns*, were admitted for this Year, and the Books ordered to be brought to the next Aſſembly, and the Directions given to the Viſitors in the Act 4th 1713, were read, and the Obſervation thereof recommended. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to receive in from the Commiſſioners from the ſeveral Presbyteries, their Synods and Presbyteries Inſtructions to them, and any new Overtures they have to offer for them, or any Remarks the ſaid Presbyteries have made upon the Overtures tranſmitted to them by the laſt Aſſembly and Commiſſion, and to claſs the Matters therein contained, and to prepare Overtures therefrom to the Aſſembly: And alſo, to receive in any Accounts that ſhould be offered to them of the State of the Church in the North, the Highlands and Iſlands, particularly concerning the Growth of Popery and Superſtition, and to conſider the ſame, and prepare Overtures for ſuppreſſing and preventing thereof, and to bring in their Report firſt to the Committee for Overtures, that they may prepare the ſame for the Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to conſider the Matter of Mr. *William Veith*'s Complaint againſt the Miniſters of *Drumfries*, and bring in an Overture thereon. *Ibid.*

Act reponing Mr. *Patrick Wyllie* Clerk to the Presbytery of *Perth*, and Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, againſt the Sentence of Depoſition pronounced by the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly 1718, againſt him, and remitting to the

the foreſaid Presbytery and Synod, to do to him with Reſpect to their Clerkſhips as they ſee meet. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Procurator and Agent for the Church to aſſiſt the Presbytery of *Chirnſide*, in their Defence againſt a Proceſs commenced for ſuppreſſing the Pariſh of *Mordingtoun*, and ordaining the Charges thereof to be defrayed out of the Church's publick Money. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Procurator and Agent for the Church to proſecute any Actions raiſed, or to be raiſed for Settlement of Stipends to the Miniſters in the Presbytery of *Skye*, and defend them, particularly the Miniſter of *Snizort*, againſt any Attempts for reducing the Settlements already made to them, and that upon the publick Charges of the Church; and remitting the Demand of that Presbytery, of an yearly Allowance for the Charges of their Commiſſioners to Aſſemblies, to the Committee for the publick Accompts: And the Conſideration of the State of that Presbytery, with Regard to the Growth of Popery, Want of Schools, the Largeneſs of Pariſhes, and the Demand of the ſaid Presbytery, that Proviſion may be made of Burſes to Students having the *Iriſh* Language, to the Committee for Inſtructions, and recommending it to Miniſters that preach in *Iriſh*, to ſing Pſalms with their People in that Language. *Ibid.*

Act continuing the extraordinary Correſpondence of the Synods of *Lothian*, *Fife*, *Perth* and *Aberdeen*, with the Synod of *Angus* and *Merns*, as it was eſtabliſhed before the Act 6, Aſſembly *Anno* 1718, until the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

It was intimated in Aſſembly, That the Money collected for the ſuffering Proteſtants in *Lithuania*, being 4100 *L. ſter.* was remitted to the Synod of *Lithuania*, conform to their own Directions, and that there remains ſtill a Sum in the Collector's Hands. That Returns to the Letters written by the Commiſſion of the late Aſſembly to Monſieur *Bonet*, the King of *Pruſſia*'s Reſident at *London*, to whom the Synod had ordered the Money to be remitted, with his Receipts of the ſame, are come to Hand; and all deficient Presbyteries and Brethren were intreated to give in their Collections to Mr. *James Young* of *Killicantie* Merchant, the Collector. *Ibid.*

It was notified, That Mr. *John-James Ceſar* did truly hold Count for the Money collected for the *German Calviniſt* Congregation in *London*, to the Conſiſtory of that Congregation, which was inſtantly inſtructed to the Aſſembly, by laying before them the ſaid Conſiſtory's Receipts of the ſaid Monies under their Hands, and the Seal of the Conſiſtory to *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, who remitted the ſame. *Ibid.*

A new Commiſſion produced, and two Members added to the Committee for Overtures, *May* 16. *Seſſ.* 4.

The former Committee is appointed to deal with the Parties concerned in Mr. *Veitch*'s Complaint, and accommodate Matters betwixt them, with Power to call Parties before them, and do every other Thing neceſſary to that Effect; and 'tis declared, That if they ſucceed not, Mr. *Veitch* ſhall be at Liberty to inſiſt in his Complaint. *Ibid.*

The Appeal in the Proceſs for planting the Pariſh of *Spynzie*, called and delayed to *Wedneſday* next. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Procurator and Agent for the Church to concur in the Proceſs of Spuilzie of the Presbyterial and two Parochial Liberaries, taken away in the late Rebellion out of the Manſe of *Alnes*, and ordaining the Expences of the ſaid Proceſs, in ſo far as concerns the ſaid Liberaries, and the Miniſter of *Alnes*'s Damages, to be born out of the publick Money. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion in Favours of ſome poor Captives in *Barbary*. *Ibid.*

A Proceſs for planting the Pariſh of *Abdie*, called and delayed till to Morrow. *Ibid.*

A Proceſs for planting the united Pariſhes of *Munktoun* and *Preſtick*, called and delayed till to Morrow; and a Committee appointed to prepare an Abſtract of the Papers in that Proceſs. *Ibid.*

Act and unanimous Reſolve of the Aſſembly, That they would not open the Sentence of the Commiſſion of the Aſſembly *Anno* 1718, depoſing Mr. *Henry Robin* late Miniſter at *Bruntiſland*, from the Office of the Miniſtry; and finding, that it would not be for the Credit of the Goſpel, or Honour of the Holy Miniſtry, to repone him againſt the ſame; and diſcharging his further Applications on that Head, *&c.* *Ibid.*

An Overture of a Committee of the Commiſſion of the late Aſſembly, for preſerving the Purity of Doctrine, with ſome Excerpts from the Book, intituled, *The Marrow of Modern Divinity*, brought in, and laid upon the Table until *Thurſday* next, to be peruſed by the Members; and reſolved, that a Meeting of the Committee for Overtures ſhould be appointed of Purpoſe to conſider the ſaid Report and Propoſitions, where all the Members of Aſſembly, and any Miniſters of this Church that pleaſe, might be preſent, and allowed to reaſon upon theſe Subjects. *Ibid.*

An Overture about Commiſſions to General Aſſemblies, and Atteſtations of the ſame, read, and laid upon the Table until another Diet. *Ibid.*

Act indulging Parties who had lodged their Appeals or Complaints before the Committee for Bills, and by a Miſtake had neglected to give in with them the Papers relative thereto, to give them in againſt to Morrow, with Certification. *Ibid.*

Act inſtructing the Commiſſion to appoint a Committee to examine ſome Books and Pamphlets publiſhed, which contain Poſitions and Expreſſions in Point of Doctrine, that deſerve to be conſidered, with Power to call for, and hear the reſpective Authors upon the ſeveral Heads and Articles, and to report to the Commiſſion, and the Commiſſion to report the Matter to the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The Procurator for the Church appointed to take Advice of Lawyers, as to Perſons who teach accademical Learning in private, and to proceed according to the Advice he gets. *Ibid.*

Intimation was made, That any of the Members of the Aſſembly that pleaſed might take Copies of the Propoſitions excerpted out of the Book called, *The Marrow of modern Divinity*, for their own Information, and the Clerk was ordered to give them that Liberty. *May* 17. *Seſſ.* 5.

Act approving the Sentence of the Synod of *Fife*, laying aſide two competing Calls given for planting the Pariſh of *Abdie*, one of them to Mr. *Patrick Clow* Miniſter at *Leſly*, and the other to Mr. *Robert Laing* Miniſter at *Newburgh*, and adviſing Parties to concur in calling a third Perſon to be Miniſter of that Pariſh, and ſignifying to the Presbytery of *Coupar*, that two Calls ſhould not have been atteſted to one Pariſh at the ſame Time. *Ibid.*

Act affirming the Sentence of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, approving of the Conduct of the Presbytery of *Air*, with Reſpect to the moderating of a Call by the Heretors, Elders and Inhabitants of the united Pariſhes of *Monktoun* and *Preſtick*, to Mr. *John Fulton* Probationer to be their Miniſter, and rejecting an Appeal made therefrom. *Ibid.*

Addition to the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

Act approving of the Call given to Mr. *John Fulton* Probationer to be Miniſter of the united Pariſhes of *Monktoun* and *Preſtick*, and appointing the Presbytery of *Air* to put him upon Trials, and proceed to his Ordination, in caſe they find him qualified. *May* 18. *Seſſ.* 6.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace His Majeſty's Commiſſioner, *&c.* *Ibid.*

The Proceſs for planting the Pariſh of *Spynzie* remitted to the Commiſſion; and in the mean Time the Presbytery of *Elgin* is appointed to invite Mr. *William Mercer* Probationer

bationer to their Bounds, and imploy him to preach in the ſaid Pariſh, and to take further Trial of the Inclinations of the People towards him. *Ibid.*

The Appeal of Mr. *Archibald Muir* late Miniſter at *Bara*, againſt the Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, depoſing him from the Office of the Miniſtry, called and delayed till to Morrow. *Ibid.*

The Appeal of the Heretors of the Pariſh of *Kirkoſwald*, from the Sentence of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, upon a Reference made to them by the Presbytery of *Air*, of a Proceſs againſt the Elders in the ſaid Pariſh; and likewiſe an Appeal from the Presbytery of *Air* for their forward Procedure, ſince the diſmiſſing of the ſaid Synod, in ſettling the foreſaid Pariſh, called and delayed till to Morrow. *Ibid.*

The Appeal of the Commiſſioners of the Univerſity of *Glaſgow*, againſt the Presbytery of *Lanerk*, for the refuſing to looſe Mr. *James Dick*, who had got His Majeſty's Preſentation to be Profeſſor of Eccleſiaſtick Hiſtory, or ſecond Profeſſor of Divinity in the ſaid Univerſity, from his preſent miniſterial Charge in the Pariſh of *Carluk*, called and delayed until *Friday* next.

Act appointing the Regiſter of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly to be atteſted in the uſual Manner, but reſerving to the Aſſembly to take under their Conſideration a Complaint of the Presbytery of *Perth*, againſt the Sentence of the ſaid Commiſſion, in the Caſe of Mr. *William Inglis* Miniſter at *Kilſpindie*. And whether the ſaid Commiſſion had exceeded the Limits of their Inſtructions, in bringing in to the Overtures for Diſcipline, tranſmitted by them to Presbyteries, more than was in the former Impreſſion of theſe Overtures, upon which Remarks were already returned; and the Commiſſion was thanked for their Diligence and Faithfulneſs in the Matters committed to them. *May* 19. *Seſſ.* 7.

Atteſtation of the Commiſſion Book. *Ibid.*

'Tis remitted to the Committee for reviſing the Commiſſion Book, to conſider what ſhould be given to *George Miller* Town Clerk of *Perth*, for his Pains and Trouble as Clerk to the Committee appointed to cognoſce in Mr. *William Inglis*'s Caſe, and report, and the Conſideration of the other References mentioned in the Committee's Remarks upon the Commiſſion Book, is reſerved to another Diet. *Ibid.*

The Members of the Aſſembly are ordered to meet by their Synods ſeverally, to name Perſons in their reſpective Synods to be a Committee for nominating the Members of

of the Commiſſion to be appointed by the Aſſembly, and preparing the Draught of their Commiſſion. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Archibald Muir*'s Appeal formerly mentioned rejected, and the Synod of *Lothian*'s Sentence of Depoſition againſt him, for Scandal and Diſaffection to His Majeſty's Perſon and Government, *&c.* approven. *Ibid.*

Some Abſents excuſed, *May* 20. *ante Merid. Seſſ.* 8.

Mr. *Archibald Muir* allowed to take up from the Clerk the Petitions of the Pariſh of *Bara* in his Favours; and 'tis recommended to the Presbytery of *Haddingtoun*, to do what they can for the Support of the ſaid Mr. *Muir* and his Family, in Reſpect of the low Circumſtances thereof. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Sentences of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, vindicating Mr. *William Cupples*, and the Elders of *Kirkoſwald*, and approving the Procedure of the Presbytery of *Air* in ſettling of that Pariſh, and preferring the Pariſh of *Kirkoſwald*, to the Pariſh of *Leſwalt*, in a Competition for the ſaid Mr. *Cupples*, with a Reference to the Commiſſion to determine any Queſtion about the ſaid Settlement. *Ibid.*

Liſts of Perſons in the ſeveral Synods brought in, and appointed as a Committee for drawing the Commiſſion to be given by this Aſſembly, naming the Perſons to be thereon, and preparing their Inſtructions, *May* 20. *poſt Merid. Seſſ.* 9.

Act continuing Mr. *James Dick* in the Exerciſe of his Miniſtry in the Pariſh of *Carluk*, and refuſing his Tranſportation to the Univerſity of *Glaſgow*, to be Profeſſor of Eccleſiaſtick Hiſtory, or ſecond Profeſſor of Theology there. *Ibid.*

Excuſes of Abſents admitted *May* 21. *Seſſ.* 10.

A Commiſſion is given by this Aſſembly, to ſome Miniſters and ruling Elders, to take Care of the Concerns of the Church, until another Aſſembly, and the Inſtructions given by the Aſſembly, *Anno* 1717. to their Commiſſion renewed, and appointed to ſtand as Inſtructions to the ſaid Commiſſion, but the Clauſe in the Commiſſion given by the laſt Aſſembly, about the *Auchterarder* Propoſition is ordered to be left out. *Ibid.*

Letter from the Presbytery of *Dunoon*, with their Remarks upon the Overtures about Kirk Seſſions and Presbyteries, remitted to the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

'Tis referred to the Commiſſion to hear, cognoſce, and finally determine in any Proceſs that ſhould be brought before them for planting the Town and pariſh of *Inverneſs* with a Miniſter, having both the *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* Languages, and that without waiting the Synod's Determination, or ſitting of the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The Commiſsion is inſtructed to do what in them lies for Relief of *Alexander Stewart* Ship-maſter, *Daniel Stewart*, *John Laverock*, *John Adamſon*, *Alexander Campbell*, *Matthew Paton*, *Robert Edmond*, *William Neilſon*, *Lauchlan M'Iintoſh*, *James Barber*, and *James Cuming*, Captives in *Barbary*, and particularly to grant Recommendations for charitable Contributions to that Effect; and His Majeſty's Commiſsioner, at the moſt earneſt Requeſt of the Aſſembly, did kindly undertake to uſe his good Offices for obtaining Relief to theſe our poor miſerable Country-men. *Ibid.*

The Commiſsion is inſtructed to call, cognoſce, and finally determine in a Proceſs, for tranſporting of Mr. *James Chalmers* from the Pariſh of *Dyke*, to that of *King Edward*, and that at their firſt Diet. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to meet with the Parties concerned in a Proceſs for planting the Pariſh of *Edzel*, and diſcourſe with them about the ſame, and alſo to conſider the ſaid Proceſs, and the Appeal made by the Presbytery of *Brechin*, againſt the Sentence of the Synod of *Angus* and *Merns*, ſuſtaining a Call from ſome in that Pariſh to Mr. *James Thomſon* Probationer, and prepare an Overture thereanent, and lay the ſame before the Commiſſion; and the Commiſſion is inſtructed to call, cognoſce, and finally determine in the ſaid Cauſe as they ſhall think fit. *Ibid.*

The Complaint of the Presbytery of *Perth* in the Caſe of Mr. *William Inglis*, moved, and delayed. *Ibid.*

The Books of the Synods of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, *Galloway*, *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Fife*, *Aberdeen*, and *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, examined and atteſted; but the Synod of *Galloway* is adviſed to be more careful to have their Regiſter written fair and authentick, and the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air* appointed to fill up two Blanks that were found in their Book; but the Synod Books of *Drumfries* and *Argyll* not being brought up to this Aſſembly, nor having been laid before the preceeding Aſſembly, were peremptorily ordered to be brought up to be reviſed by the next Aſſembly, and the Synod Books of *Murray*, and *Orkney*, and *Caithneſs*, not being brought up to this Aſſembly, were ordered to be laid before the next Aſſembly, to be examined. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſioner's Grace ſhewed the Aſſembly, That he had Letters from Court, acquainting him of his Majeſty's Receipt of the Aſſembly's Anſwer to his Letter, and that he was well ſatisfied with the Expreſſions it contains of Duty and Loyalty to His Perſon and Government; but eſpecially the affectionate Concern they therein evidence for the Proteſtant Intereſt; and the Moderator in the

the Assembly's Name, did humbly thank his Grace for his Care in procuring so speedy a Return to their Letter; and the Moderator shewed the Assembly, that he had a Letter from his Grace the Duke of *Roxburgh*, of the same Import with what the Lord Commissioner had been pleased to represent to the Assembly, *May* 22. *Sess.* 11*th*.

The Consideration of Mr. *Vetch*'s Complaint above-mentioned, is referred to the Commission, with Power to do therein as they think just. *Ibid.*

The Matter of the Complaint of the Presbytery of *Perth* in Mr. *Inglis*'s Case above-specified, is remitted to the next General Assembly, that they may do therein as they find just; and a Copy of the Complaint is appointed to be given to Mr. *Inglis*; and he is ordered to be cited to compear before the said Assembly, that he may answer to them as to what concerns him in the said Complaint. *Ibid.*

The Case of our *French* Protestant Brethren settled at *Hildburghausen* in *Saxony*, is most seriously and earnestly recommended to the several Synods in this Church, that such of them as have not yet collected any Thing for them, may yet do it as soon as they can, and appoint a Day for that Purpose, and send in the Money collected to *John Martin* of *Airies* Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, who is impowered to receive the same, and will make it forthcoming to Mr. *John D'Ebeynne*, Director, Judge, and Elder of the said Protestant Colony, who has a Patent from Duke *Ernest* of *Saxony*, permitting and directing him to gather and collect Contributions for the End foresaid. *Ibid.*

The Consideration of a Reference from the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, as the Case of *John M'Coul* Merchant in *Glasgow*, and *Marion Main* his Spouse, irregularly married by Mr. *John Adamson* sometime Probationer, and now lying under the Sentence of the Greater Excommunication, in Order to obtain the Assembly's Advice in this Matter: And also, of what Censure is to be inflicted on Persons who apply to the said Mr. *Adamson* for baptizing of their Children, is remitted to the Commission, that they may give Advice and Direction therein as they see meet. *Ibid.*

All Affairs and Matters that were referred by the last General Assembly to their Commission, and were not finished by them, are referred to the Commission of this Assembly, with Power to them to proceed and determine therein, in the same Manner as the said former Commission were impowered to do. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee appointed to revise the Commissions given to Members of this Assembly by their

Conſtituents, is received and approven, and Letters are ordered to be written to Synods and Presbyteries whoſe Commiſſions were defective, adviſing them to take Care to help the Defects in Time coming, with Certification; and deſiring that Presbyteries may not atteſt any Commiſſion having Defects therein; and appointing Preſbyteries to ſend their full Number of Repreſentatives to the General Aſſemblies, and to call Abſents to an Account: And the Abſence of the Presbyteries of *Dornock*, *Abernethie*, *Kirkwall*, and North Iſles, is excuſed for this Year; but both they, and all other abſent Preſbyteries, are enjoined to ſend Commiſſioners to the next Aſſembly, as they will be anſwerable; and that in Regard moſt of the Presbyteries now not fully repreſented, or totally abſent, were likewiſe ſo the laſt Year, particularly the Prsbyteries of *Kirkwall*, *Ellon*, and *Strathbogie*, were not fully repreſented, and thoſe of North Iſles, *Caithneſs*, *Skye*, *Garrioch*, and *Fordice*, were then wholly abſent, and ſome of them were frequently ſo before. *Ibid.*

'Tis recommended to the Synods of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Argyll*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, *Fife*, and *Galloway*, to make a publick Collection, for helping the Pariſhoners of *Kilmadock*, *Kincardine*, and *Port*, to carry on a new Erection out of the ſaid Pariſhes, for a new Pariſh at *Noriſton*, and to encourage a young Man to preach there in the mean Time, until the ſame be obtained; and that Collection is appointed to be ſent to the Presbytery of *Dumblain* to be carefully applied to the Purpoſes foreſaid, and the ſaid Presbytery is ordained to be accountable for the Money to the General Aſſemblies and Commiſſions thereof. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accompts of Mr. *John Dundas* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, of his Intromiſſions with the Church's Money that was in the Fund of the Equivalent, and of his Deburſements thereof, all the Annualrents of the ſame, preceeding the 24th of *June* 1717 Years, having been counted for at the laſt Aſſembly 1719; and finding that the Sum of 1675 *L. ſter.* ariſing from the Sale of the Church's Debentures, is the full of all that the ſaid Mr. *John Dundas* ſtands chargeable with, upon Account of the Money that was due to the Church upon that Fund, and that he has deburſed and paid out thereof to the Creditors of the Church, in the Manner and Order preſcribed by the Acts of Aſſembly, their Committees and Commiſſions, the Sum of 1589 *L.* 2 *ſh.* 4 *d.* and 2 third Parts *ſterl.* And therefore diſcharging him and his Cautioner thereof; and declaring, That upon Payment of the Remains to the Church's Creditors, having Right

Right thereto, he and his Cautioner ſhall be diſcharged of the whole Monies that were due by the Publick to the Church, upon the Fund of the Equivalent, both Principal and Annualrents. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Procurator's Accounts of the Church's Allowance of 500 *L. Sterl.* which was at the Diſpoſal of the laſt Aſſembly, for defraying the Charges of the Church for the Year 1719, and diſcharging him and his Cautioner of his Intromiſſions therewith, and appointing the Ballance of 5 *L.* 5 *ſh.* 2 *d.* and one Half Peny *Sterl.* due to him, to be ſtated as an Article of Diſcharge in his next Account. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accounts of *Nicol Spence*, one of the Agents for the Church, and ſuſtaining his Deburſements on the Church's Affairs, from the firſt of *May* 1719, to the firſt of *May* 1720, and appointing the Ballance of 63 *L.* 9 *ſh.* 2 *d.* and Two Thirds *Sterl.* due by him, beſides his Ballances at former Countings, to be paid to him. *Ibid.*

Act finding that the yearly fixed Salaries and other Allowances given by the Church, do amount to 282 *Lib. Sterl.* So that there remains for other Uſes only 218 *L. Sterl.* yearly; and that there is reſting of Money ſtated already by the preceeding Aſſembly and this, 371 *L.* 11 *ſh.* 2 *d. Sterl.* which cannot be paid for ſeveral Years, tho' there ſhould be little granted to Probationers ſent North; and beſides this Sum, there are ſeveral other Claims depending. That the Act 14th of the late Aſſembly appoints the Settlement of Stipends and Schools in Pariſhes where Popery abounds, to be carried on upon the publick Charges of the Church; in Conſequence whereof, there are ſeveral Proceſſes depending, beſide others that were raiſed by former Warrants; and that for diverſe Years bygone, there have been conſiderable Ballances due to *Nicol Spence* Agent in his Accounts, and that there are now more Occaſions for laying out Money, in Purſuance of diverſe Acts and Orders for carrying on of Proceſſes; and therefore appointing 25 *L. Sterl.* more than was formerly allowed to be lodged quarterly in the ſaid *Nicol Spence*'s Hands, to be laid out on the Church's Affairs according to the Aſſembly's Orders, and for which he is to hold Count yearly to the Aſſembly; and allowing 15 *L. Sterl.* as a Part of the Incidents of the laſt Year to *George Miller* Clerk of *Perth*, for his Service to the Committee about Mr. *Inglis*'s Affair; and alſo, 100 *L. Scots* yearly, beginning with this Year, to the Commiſſioners that come to the Aſſemblies from the Presbytery of *Skye*, to be paid in the ſame Order as the Viaticums to Probationers, but not until all the Sums already or-

dered be first paid: But as to all the other Claims, The Assembly found they could not in a Consistency with the 5th and 8th Acts of the last Assembly, and former Acts, grant any Orders therefore; but they left the Claimants to apply, after the Debts already stated are all paid. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Hugh Corss*'s Claim left to be determined by the above-mentioned Act, and he to follow the Directions thereof. *Ibid.*

A Representation to the Government, concerning the Growth of Popery. *Ibid.*

The Commission is instructed to consider *James Young* Merchant his Accounts of the Collection made for the Protestants in *Lithuania*, and to give all proper Advice and Directions to him in the managing and disposing of what of the Monies yet remains in his Hands, or may be brought in to him, from the several Presbyteries of the Church. *Ibid.*

Act transmitting to Presbyteries the Overtures, with some Amendments made thereupon, concerning Kirk-Sessions and Presbyteries, that were transmitted by the Commission of the late General Assembly, in Pursuance of the Appointment of the said Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Overtures concerning the planting of vacant Churches, especially *tanquam jure devoluto*, which were transmitted to Presbyteries by the late General Assembly, are amended; and the same with an Overture as to them are again transmitted to Presbyteries, for their Opinions to be reported to the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Reference from the Presbytery of *Fordoun* to the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, about dividing of the Church of *Fordoun*, and that Synod's Reference of the same to this Assembly, is remitted to the Commission, with Power to do therein as they shall see Cause. *Ibid.*

A charitable Collection for building the Bridge of *Blackburn*, in the Sheriffdom of *Linlithgow*, is seriously recommended; especially within the Bounds of the Synods of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Argyle*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, and *Galloway*; and the Money is to be imployed for the building of the said Bridge, by the Direction of the Justices of the Peace of the said Sheriffdom, or their Trustees. *Ibid.*

George Gay is recommended to the Kirk-sessions in the Bounds of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, *Drumfries* and *Galloway*, and Deficients in the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, for charitable Supply. *Ibid.*

Agnes Philp, Relict of the deceast *William Kilpatrick* Indweller in *Kirkcaldy*, is recommended to the several Kirk-Sessions within the Bounds of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale* for Supply. *Ibid.*

James Grierſon is recommended to all the Kirk-Seſſions of this Church beſouth *Forth*, for charitable Supply. *Ibid.*

Bryce Semple ſometime Enſign in Colonel *Hill*'s Regiment at *Fort-William*, is recommended to the Synods of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, and *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, for charitable Supply. *Ibid.*

The Appeal of Mr. *John Somervell* Miniſter at *Carlaverok*, from the Procedure of the Synod of *Drumfreis* againſt him, relating to the ſtating of the Accompts of Doctor *John Hutton* Phyſician, his Mortification to the ſaid Pariſh, is referred to the Commiſſion, with Power to them to do therein as they ſhall find juſt. *Ibid.*

'Tis recommended to Presbyteries to proceed with Church-Diſcipline againſt thoſe guilty of irregular Marriages, both the Miniſter that celebrates thoſe Marriages, and the Parties married themſelves; and the Commiſſion is inſtructed to adviſe Presbyteries and particular Brethren, with Relation to irregular Marriages and Baptiſms, as they ſhall be applied to for that Effect. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to take under Conſideration, the 9th Act of Aſſembly, *Anno* 1704, which appoints Sentences of the greater Excommunication to be intimated in all the Churches in *Scotland*; and to report to the next Aſſembly, how far the ſaid Act is expedient to be continued, or whether the continuing thereof, as a ſtanding Act, does tend to Edification, That the Aſſembly may continue or repeal the ſame as they ſee meet. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to give their Advice and Aſſiſtance to the Presbytery of *Ellon*, for reſtraining the Abuſes in their Bounds, by keeping Markets on *Saturdays* and *Mondays*, contrair to the Acts of Parliament. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to give Advice and Aſſiſtance to the Presbytery of *Inverneſs*, in obtaining ſome of the vacant Stipends of the Pariſhes of *Kirkhill* and *Kiltarlaty*, for building and repairing Manſes, *&c.* *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is appointed to aſſiſt the Presbytery of *Skye*, in obtaining Disjunctions and new Erections in their Bounds. *Ibid.*

The Synod of *Aberdeen* is appointed, upon Application of the Presbytery of *Ellon*, to conſider the State of the ſaid Presbytery, with Reſpect to the Addition, which they deſire, of ſome more Pariſhes to their Presbytery. *Ibid.*

The Expences of Proceſſes for ſettling the Stipends of Mrs. *John Monro* Miniſter at *Suddie*, *John M'Arthur* at *Killurnan*, and *John M'Gilligen* at *Lochailſh*, appointed to be defrayed out of the Church's publick Money, ſo far as the ſaid Fund will admit. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Robert Robertſon* Probationer, is appointed to be ſent to ſupply in *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, under the Inſpection of the ſeveral Presbyteries in that Synod, and to have the ordinary Allowance. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to enquire after Probationers having the *Iriſh* Language, and to ſend them to ſuch Places as call for them. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to provide Burſaries to young Men having the *Iriſh* Language, whom they ſhall find to deſerve the ſame. *Ibid.*

Liſts of Probationers and Students of Divinity brought in, and the Names of Probationers read, and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

Inſtruction to the Commiſſion to aſſiſt Mr. *Martine Shanks* Miniſter at *Banchorie-ternan*, in ſecuring the Mortifications made to his Pariſh, and the Procurator and Agents for the Church are appointed to aſſiſt that Pariſh in any Proceſſes that are depending, or may be raiſed for that Effect. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation admitted at the Inſtance of the Synod of *Murray*, againſt *Hugh* and *Alexander Anderſons*, for not inſiſting in their Appeal from that Synod's Sentence, appointing Correſpondents to the Presbytery of *Elgin*. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation admitted at the Inſtance of the Laird of *Caſtlehill*, and other Heritors and Pariſhoners of *Inverneſs*, againſt Baillie *James Dumbar*, and *John Baillie*, Heritors in that Pariſh, for not inſiſting in their Appeal from the Sentence of the Synod of *Murray*, about planting of the ſaid Town and Pariſh. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation admitted at the Inſtance of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, againſt *John M'Nichen* in the Pariſh of *Ballintrae*, for not inſiſting in his Appeal from that Synod's Sentence, in the Proceſs againſt him for inceſtuous Uncleanneſs. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed for reviſing the Minutes of this Aſſembly, and giving Directions for printing ſuch of the Acts thereof as are to be ſtanding Rules, or of publick Uſe. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of this Day's Sederunt read, all the Minutes of preceeding Sederunts having been read at the reſpective Diets ſubſequent to each of them. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to the Aſſembly, and to the King's Commiſſioner. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſioner's Speech and Concluſion of this General Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

OVERTURES

CONCERNING

Planting of vacant Churches, especially tanquam Jure devoluto.

CONSIDERING *how necessary it is, That Presbyteries be very tender of giving any Ground of Complaint in their planting Parishes* tanquam Jure devoluto; and that any who judge themselves lesed, may have an Opportunity of being heard by Superior Judicatories, and if wronged, may be redressed; and that there were some Overtures concerning this Case, transmitted by the General Assembly, *in Anno* 1711, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they might send their Remarks thereupon to the then ensuing General Assembly, before the same should be turned into standing Acts; but no Returns having been made thereto from Presbyteries, by Reason of a Law soon after made, restoring to Patrons the Power of Presentation, a Grievance which this Church hath always complained of from the Reformation; it is therefore overtured, That when a Parish falleth vacant, the Presbytery in whose Bounds it lies, shall, with all Diligence, declare and intimate the Vacancy; and if there be no legal Eldership settled therein, according to the Constitution of this Church, the Presbytery shall not proceed to plant upon the *Jus devolutum*, until they first use all proper Means to establish an Eldership consisting of such a Number as has been usual in the Parish: As also, That before they proceed to plant upon the *Jus devolutum*, they shall make Intimation from the Pulpit of that Parish, That the Right is devolved upon the Presbytery; but that they desiring to have the Vacancy comfortably planted, with the Consent of all concerned, do advertise and invite Heritors and Elders, or Heritors and Heads of Families, where there is not a legal Eldership settled, to give in Lists to the Presbytery of such well qualified Persons as they incline to call to the holy Ministry: If such Lists shall be brought in to the next Meeting of the Presbytery, either by the Heritors and Elders jointly, or by the Heritors apart, or the Elders apart, or Heads of Families, where there is no legal Eldership; then the Presbytery shall appoint one of their Number to preach in that

Congregation, and moderate in a Meeting of the Heritors and Elders for chooſing one out of the ſaid Liſt to be their Miniſter; and the Moderator of that Meeting ſhall atteſt a Call to him unto whom the Plurality of the Meeting have given their Suffrages; providing always, that the Majority of the Heritors who are well affected, and do join in Communion with this Church, do concur in the ſaid Call; as alſo, that due and timeous Intimation be made of the Day of this Meeting, that all concerned may be advertiſed to attend the ſame. The Elders likewiſe ſhould try the Inclinations of the Heads of Families, and Perſons of good Reputation in that Pariſh, and have Regard thereto in their Choice of a Miniſter; and where there are no Elders, that the Presbytery ſound the Inclinations of the People: And if it ſhall happen that there be not a Majority of Heritors well affected, and joining in Communion with this Church, concurring in the ſaid Call, then the Presbytery ſhall not proceed to a Settlement on the ſaid Call, till ſuch Heritors be dealt with for their Conſent and Concurrence, or till the Advice of the Synod be had in that Caſe; and that Synods, in judging of ſuch Caſes, ſhall have ſpecial Regard to ſuch Heritors as are well affected, and join in Communion with this Church, as now by Law eſtabliſhed; but if upon Advertiſement given, no Liſts ſhall be brought in to the Preſbytery from the vacant Pariſh, then the Presbytery ſhall make a Liſt of two or three, whom they judge well qualified, and fit for undertaking the Miniſtry in that Pariſh, and ſhall order Intimation of their Liſt to be made to the Vacant Congregation, that any of the Congregation may attend the next Meeting of the Presbytery, and ſhew which of theſe in the Presbytery's Liſt they deſire to be their Miniſter, or to object againſt any of the ſaid Liſt, if they have any Thing of Moment to offer, or even to add to the ſaid Liſt any other fit Perſon, which Addition the Presbytery ſhall admit: and the Presbytery ſhall uſe Means both to know the Inclinations of Heritors and People, and to obtain their Conſent unto the Perſon they moſt incline to, before they give a Presbyterial Call to one in the *Liſt* propoſed: And if after all Pains taken, and dealing with the Heritors, Elders and People of the vacant Pariſh, in order to their comfortable Settlement, with their own good Liking and Conſent, there be no Hope of Succeſs, then the Presbytery may proceed to the ſaid Settlement; but if any of the Heritors, Elders, or Heads of Families, or Perſons of good Reputation in the Pariſh, do compear before the Presbytery, and offer Objections againſt the Perſon to be ſettled, either as to his Orthodoxy, Literature, Life and Converſation, or other miniſterial Qualifications, the Presbytery, before they

proceed

proceed to the Settlement, ſhall take Trial of the ſaid Objections; and if any Difficulty occur, or that there appear any Heat or Diviſion in the Pariſh about a Call, the Presbytery ſhall not proceed until they have the Advice and Direction of the Synod, and ſhall acquaint the Pariſh, that they may attend the Synod to hear their Determination; or if there be any Appeal from the Presbytery's Procedure, they ſhall ſiſt the foreſaid Settlement, till the Time appointed for the next Meeting of the Synod, or the General Aſſembly appealed to; and if the Appellants do not then inſiſt in their Appeal, the Presbytery may proceed as if the ſame had never been made; but if the Appellants do inſiſt, then the Judicatory appealed to ſhall diſcuſs the ſame without Delay, and give Sentence therein as they ſhall ſee Cauſe; and if there be a further Appeal from the Synod to the General Aſſembly, the foreſaid Settlement ſhall likewiſe ſtop until the Time appointed for the Meeting of the next General Aſſembly, unleſs the Appellants do paſs from the ſaid Appeal: But becauſe ſome Perſons, from a litigious and diſaffected Humour, may oppoſe the Settlement of a vacant Church, and appeal with a Deſign to continue the Vacancy for ſome Time longer; Therefore, to prevent this, That it be declared, That unleſs thoſe who do oppoſe the planting of any vacant Pariſh, do timeouſly give in, in Writing under their Hands, Objections againſt the Settlement deſigned, and give in alſo the Reaſons of their Appeal within ten Days after the entring of it, in Manner appointed by the Acts of the General Aſſembly, the ſame ſhall not be regarded, nor the Appeal received; but the Settlement deſigned ſhall go on, as if the Objections and Appeal had never been made; and the Judicatory ſhall intimate this to the Objectors and Appellants at making the ſaid Objections or Appeals. *Laſtly*, That in Caſe of vacant Kirks in Royal Burghs, the Magiſtrates and Town-council, Miniſters and Elders of the Burgh be the Electors; but where a Part of the Pariſh belongs to the Landward, the Heritors and Elders of that Part of the vacant Pariſh are to join in the Election and Calling of the Miniſters to ſupply theſe Vacancies, according to Uſe and Wont.

Overtures concerning Kirk-ſeſſions and Presbyteries.

THE General Aſſembly having had under Conſideration the Overtures concerning Kirk-ſeſſions and Presbyteries, tranſmitted by the late Commiſſion, with the Obſerves and Remarks of ſeveral Presbyteries thereupon; but finding that divers Presbyteries had not had Time maturely to conſider theſe Overtures, the Aſſembly did, and

hereby do coutinue the foreſaid Overtures under the Conſideration of Presbyteries, till the next General Aſſembly; and appoints Presbyteries to ſend up their Remarks and Opinion upon them to the next General Aſſembly. And becauſe the Meaning and Intention of divers Paſſages in them hath been miſtaken, and underſtood differently from the Senſe of the Commiſſion and their Committee; Therefore, to prevent any Miſtakes which may be entertained, the General Aſſembly have, from the Remarks of Presbyteries, made ſome Amendments and Explanations, as follows, *viz. Page 5th, Line 13.* That the Words (*Foundation of the Presbyterian Government*) be tranſpoſed to *Line 7th*, after God's Word.

Page 8. Parag. 4. The firſt three Lines are to be delete, and to run thus, *The General Aſſembly taking to their ſerious Conſideration*, &c.

Page 11. L. 3. Theſe Words (*which are hereby allowed to continue*) to be delete.

Page 11. In Place of Paragraph 8th, read, *The Kirk-ſeſſions are to meet at ſuch Times as are moſt convenient for the well-ordering of the Affairs of their Congregations.*

The Miniſters and Elders ought always to ſtudy Harmony and Unanimity; but if any Queſtion fall out in a Seſſion in Matters of Diſcipline to be executed by the Miniſter, nothing ſhould be concluded, unleſs it be agreed to by the Miniſter and Plurality of Elders, till the Presbytery give their Advice and Direction thereupon. And in a collegiate Seſſion, where there are two Miniſters, one of them agreeing with the Majority of the Elders, or both with Half of the Elders, ſhall decide a Cauſe: If more Miniſters than two, then a Majority of both Miniſters and Elders, or an equal Half of one agreeing with the Majority of the other, is neceſſary for a deciſive Sentence in Matters of Diſcipline, to be executed as above: In Matters concerning the Relief of the Poor, the Deacons have an equal Vote with the Elders.

And the General Aſſembly conſidering, that it is but in ſome few Burghs where general Seſſions are, and that the Presbyteries in whoſe Bounds theſe Burghs ly, have moſt Acceſs to know the Conſtitution and Practice of the General Seſſions: The General Aſſembly do therefore recommend to the reſpective Presbyteries, in whoſe Bounds theſe Burghs are, to enquire into the Conſtitution and Practice of the ſaid General Seſſions, and report to the next General Aſſembly.

Nota. *The foreſaid Overtures having been already laid before the ſeveral Presbyteries in Print, it was thought not needful to print them again this Year, and ſend them to Presbyteries a ſecond Time.*

FINIS.